



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/883,533	06/18/2001	Gopal K. Srivastava	MATP-604US	1418
23122	7590	11/29/2005	EXAMINER	
RATNERPRESTIA P O BOX 980 VALLEY FORGE, PA 19482-0980			SHANG, ANNAN Q	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2617	

DATE MAILED: 11/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/883,533

Applicant(s)

SRIVASTAVA, GOPAL K.

Examiner

Annan Q. Shang

Art Unit

2617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 August 2005.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s), _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 08/31/05
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by **Sato et al (6,751,687)**.

As to claims 1-2, note the **Sato** reference figures 1-3, discloses method of controlling device, transmission device and medium and further discloses an audio/video platform (AVP) (First Video Receiver 'First-VR' 10 or 20) for video signal processing system, comprising:

a digital communications port (Plugs 13 'IEEE1394 I/F-109' of Video Receiver 10, fig.1 and col.9, lines 29-40 and lines 51-63) for transferring control and data signals between the AVP (First-VR-10 or 20) and at least a first video device (one of AVE-30, 40 and 50);

at least one analog video communications port (Plug 14, col.10, lines 5-9) for transferring video signals between a second video device (AVE 30) and the AVP;

an infrared transmitter (IR-115, col.10, lines 50-60) for transmitting infrared

control commands to the second video device (one of AVE 30, 40 and 50); and
a control processor (CPU-110, col.10, line 50-col.11, line 2) coupled to the digital video communications port (Plug 13) and the infrared transmitter (IR-115) for sending control signals commands to the first video device via the digital communications port and for sending control commands to the second video device via the infrared transmitter (col.15, lines 20-45, col.16, lines 48-60, col.20, lines 5-25 and col.21, lines 9-38).

As to claim 3, Sato further discloses where the communications port is an IEEE 1394 which is configured to send and receive control and data signals to a first video device (one of AVE 30, 40 and 50) as a slave device and to receive data signals form a third device (one of AVE 30, 40 and 50) as a master device (col.9, lines 28-50 and col.21, lines 9-38).

As to claim 4, Sato further discloses where AVE-10 includes memory (ROM-111 and RAM-112, col.10, lines 50-60) for storing respective commands sets for the AVE devices.

As to claim 5, Sato further discloses where the digital communications port is configured to receive a transport stream as specified by MPEG via the digital communications port and A/V platform further comprises an MPEG decoder which processes the MPEG TS to generate a video output signal (col.11, lines 3-53).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 6-12 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Sato et al (6,751,687)** in view of **Humpleman et al (6,603,488)**.

As to claims 6-7, Sato, fails to explicitly teach generating on-screen display signals, which displays commands for selected one of the first and second devices using graphics processor.

However, **Humpleman** teaches generating on-screen display signals and menus which display control commands for a selected Home-Devices using the graphics processor and responds to corresponding commands from the RC, which includes control switches for control the Home-Ds, and transmits corresponding commands to the selected Home-Ds and group devices by room bases (figs. 8-12, col. 6, line 58-col. 7, line 24, col. 8, line 32-col. 9, line 9 and col. 14, line 20+).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a GUI of the various devices on the network to enable the user to control each device or groups of devices in each room as desired.

As to claims 8-12, note the **Sato** reference figures 1-3, method of controlling device, transmission device and medium and further discloses a method for controlling a plurality of video devices (AVE-30, 40 and 50) from an audio/video platform (AVE-10

and 20), where a first group (AVE-30, 40 and 50) includes respective digital communications ports (Plugs 32, 42 and 52) and are configured as slave mode devices and a second group of plurality of video devices (AVE-10 and 20) include respective digital communications ports (Plugs 13 and 22) and are configured as master mode devices, at least the second group of video devices includes an infrared (IR) receiver (I-115) which is responds to commands transmitted by the IR remote, the method comprising the steps of:

Transmitting (CPU-110, col.10, line 50-col.11, line 2) digital commands to the first group of plurality of video devices (AVE-30, 40 and 50) using the digital communication port (Plug 13 and 22);

Transmitting (CPU-110) infrared commands to the second group of the plurality of video devices (AVE-10 and 20, col.10, line 50-col.11, line 2);

Sato further registers AVE devices, storing commands sets for the devices in memory and responsive to a request to transmit a control signal to a selected one of the devices (col.13, line 64-col.14, line 16, col.15, line 4-45 and col.16, line 33-60), retrieves the identified command set for the selected video device from the memory, configuring the AVE-10 to communicate digital and analog signals between devices using digital and analog ports (col.10, line 5-col.11, line 2, col.18, lines 38-67 and col.21, line 9+)

Sato fails to explicitly teach grouping devices, displaying a command menu for selected one of the first and second groups of video devices, receiving infrared commands corresponding to the displayed command menu and translating the received commands for the selected one of the first and second groups of video devices and

transmitting the translated commands to the selected one of the first and second groups of video devices.

However, **Humpleman** teaches generating on-screen display signals and menus which display control commands for a selected Home-Devices using the graphics processor and responds to corresponding commands from the RC, which includes control switches for control the Home-Ds, groups devices on a room-by-room basis to identify respective command sets for the each room home-Ds and storing the identified command sets for room devices into memory and responsive to a request to transmit a control signal to the selected one of the Home-Ds or room-Ds and associating the control signal with a command from the retrieved command set and transmitting the associated command to the selected one of a room-Ds set (figs. 8-12, col. 6, line 58-col. 7, line 24, col. 8, line 32-col. 9, line 9 and col. 14, line 20+).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a GUI of the various devices on the network to enable the user to control each device or groups of devices in each room as desired.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-12 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection discussed above. This office action is non-final.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Bolleman et al (6,286,063) discloses microprocessor-controlled broadcast receiver.

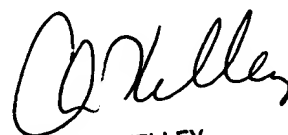
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Annan Q. Shang** whose telephone number is **571-272-7355**. The examiner can normally be reached on **700am-400pm**.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Christopher S. Kelley** can be reached on **571-272-7331**. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **571-273-8300**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the **Electronic Business Center (EBC)** at **866-217-9197 (toll-free)**.



Annan Q. Shang.



CHRIS KELLEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600